

Becoming a Christian

It's great that you are using this study material. I wanted to explain how it works.

First, it begins with coming to know Jesus. Christ is Who we are wanting people to be converted to. The passages introduce the person to how Jesus treated people, and how he met people where they were. For some people, Jesus offered hope and acceptance that had been lost. For others, he was more direct and confrontational because of their pride. With everyone he called for repentance and change. But in this part, especially in reading the account of Christ's passion, we better understand the heart of God, what He has done for us, and how He feels toward us.

The second part deals with becoming a Christian. Once people understand who Jesus is and the gift that He is offering, they should naturally ask: How do I receive the gift? This part talks about what one must believe, what repentance means, and the significance of baptism.

The third part talks about living the Christian life, what's involved in it, the power of the Holy Spirit that enables me to live it, and what a Christ-like life looks like, including what part we play in the body or church of Christ.

Then the final part is a short part that places the focus of salvation on and only on Jesus. These passages make it plain that despite what the world teaches, there is only one way to the Father.

I suggest that you have the person you're studying with read (and even re-read if necessary) the passages, then answer the questions. Let God's word do its powerful work and let the Holy Spirit speak through it.

Dale Mannon

Becoming a Christian

Coming to Know Christ – fall in love with Christ to follow Him, not just be religious

- Read John 4:1-42 - what impresses you about this occasion? What difference can and did Jesus make?
- Read John 8:1-11 - what impresses you about this situation? What difference can and did Jesus make?
- Read Luke 8:26-39 - what impresses you about the circumstances? What difference can and did Jesus make? What did Jesus tell the man to do?
- Read Luke 18:18-30 – what impresses you about the circumstances? What difference can and did Jesus make? What was the ruler still missing in his life? What is the kingdom of God?
- Read Luke 19:1-10 – what impresses you about the circumstances? What do you think Jesus said that led to the change in Zaccheus?
- What do you learn about Jesus from these encounters?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - what had the Christians in Corinth been like? What was different in their new lives? What (who) had made the difference?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - what is a new creation?
- Read Luke 22:39-24:53 - what is the story of the cross? Why did Jesus endure the cross? What does that mean about sin? (Think about the cross and the idea of grace).
- Read Hebrews 10; Ephesians 2,3 – What do you learn about God’s plan? How was Jesus the once for all Sacrifice?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 - what is the gospel? What does it mean for your life that Jesus is no longer dead, but was raised by God from the dead?

Becoming a Christian – Salvation on God’s Terms

- Read Matthew 18:1-6 – What must happen in true conversion?
- Read John 14:15; Hebrews 5:5-9 – what is evidence of love?
- Faith = Trust + Obedience (Hebrews 11:5,6; Romans 10:14-17)
- Read Mark 16:15,16; and John 8:24 - what must one do? Believe what?
- Read Acts 2:22-47; Luke 13:1-5 - what must one do? What does repent mean? Repent of what?
- Read Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:38 – 2 conditions, 2 results; Romans 6:1-4 - what must one also do? What is baptism? Why is baptism essential (Read Galatians 3:26-29)? How is it reenacting the gospel?
- Read Acts 22:1-16 and Acts 8:26-39 - how did Paul become a Christian? How did the eunuch from Ethiopia become a Christian? Both were genuine and had a thirst to know God, but were saved only in Christ.
- Read Matthew 10:34-39 - what does this passage mean to you? Read Luke 14:25-33 – what is Jesus’ point in these words?
- Salvation comes on God’s terms, not human terms. So what have you learned is necessary to be saved?

The Christian Life – What does following Christ look like?

- The Goal: Read Romans 8:28-30; 2 Corinthians 3:12-18
- The Struggle: Read Romans 7:14-25 and 1 John 1:5-2:2 and Ephesians 6:10-20
- The Fruit: Galatians 5:16-26 - what is one to do after becoming a Christian?
 1. What is love?
 2. What is joy?
 3. What is peace?
 4. What is longsuffering (patience)?
 5. What is kindness?
 6. What is goodness?
 7. What is faithfulness?
 8. What is gentleness?
- Read Matthew 6:25-34. What does verse 33 mean?
- Read 2 Peter 3:17,18 - what do these verses mean? How does one grow in grace? How does one grow in knowledge? What does it take to grow in Christ?
- Read Roman 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and Ephesians 4:11-16 – How does is the Body to function? What is the purpose of the varying gifts? The Christian life is a continued walk with Christ, and with the brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12). There will always be room for growing and sharing.
- What do you understand is expected of you once you become a Christian?

Why Become a Christian

- A. Read Matthew 7:13,14, 21-23 - why become a Christian?
- B. Read John 10:7-11 - why become a Christian?
- C. Read John 14:1-6 and Acts 4:12 - why become a Christian?

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